

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A computerized price optimization system configured to create a promotional event calendar, useful in association with at least one store, the computerized price optimization system comprising:

an econometric engine including computer-readable code configured to model sales as a function of price to create a sales model, wherein the econometric engine includes an imputed variable generator for:

imputing base price variable and promotional variable,

~~creating a plurality of demand groups, wherein each demand group is a set of at least one product and wherein at least one of the demand groups is a set of at least two substitutable products, and wherein the creation of the plurality of demand groups includes error detection and correction based on attributes of the plurality of demand groups,~~

~~generating an equivalent price and an equivalized unit for each product of the plurality of demand groups using an equivalizing factor, and~~

wherein the sales model includes the imputed base price variable, ~~the equivalent price, the equivalent unit~~ and the promotional variable;

a financial model engine including computer-readable code configured to model costs to create a cost model;

a promotional engine coupled to the econometric engine, and financial model engine, the promotional engine including computer-readable code configured to receive input from the econometric engine and financial model engine, wherein the promotional engine analyzes a plurality

of offers, a plurality of promotional events, conditions from more than at least one manufacturer wherein the conditions are requirements the more than one manufacturer places on at least one of the plurality of offers, and constraints from the at least one store to optimally match offers with promotional events to create a promotional event calendar subject to the conditions from the more than one manufacturer at least one store, and the constraints from the at least one store, and wherein the constraints from the at least one store includes a linear constraint and a nonlinear constraint.

2. (Previously Presented) The system, as recited in claim 1, wherein the promotional engine further comprises a temporary price reduction optimizing engine including computer-readable code configured to temporarily reduce prices after the promotional events and offers have been selected.

3. (Previously Presented) The system, as recited in claim 2, further comprising a support tool connected to the promotional engine wherein the support tool includes computer-readable code configured to receive the promotional event calendar from the promotional engine and provides a user interface to a client, wherein the user interface provides the promotional event calendar to the client.

4. (Previously Presented) The system, as recited in claim 1, wherein the promotional engine calculates the value of offers and the value of promotional events by using the financial model and sales model and selects combinations of the offers and the promotional events.

5. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for creating a promotional event calendar, comprising:

~~creating a plurality of demand groups, wherein each demand group is a set of at least one product and wherein at least one of the demand groups is a set of at least two substitutable products, and wherein the creation of the plurality of demand groups includes error detection and correction based on attributes of the plurality of demand groups;~~

~~generating an equivalent price and an equivalized unit for each product of the plurality of demand groups using an equivalizing factor;~~

creating a sales model for each product demand group and wherein the sales model includes an imputed base price variable, ~~the equivalent price, the equivalent unit~~ and a promotional variable;

creating a cost model;

determining conditions from more than at least one manufacturer, wherein the conditions are requirements the more than one manufacturer places on an offer;

determining constraints from at least one store, and wherein the constraints from the at least one store includes a linear constraint and a nonlinear constraint;

determining the value of offers using the sales model and cost model;

determining the value of promotional events using the sales model and cost model; and

selecting combinations of the offers and promotional events by optimizing based on the determined values to create a promotion event calendar subject to the conditions from the more than at least one manufacturer and constraints from the at least one store.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method, as recited in claim 5 [[6]], further comprising the step of estimating net profit from the selected combination of offers and promotional events using the sales model and cost model.

8. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for creating a promotional event calendar, comprising:

creating a sales model, comprising:

creating a plurality of demand groups, wherein each demand group is a set of at least one product and wherein at least one of the demand groups is a set of at least two products;

generating an equivalent price and an equivalized unit for each product of the plurality of demand groups using an equivalizing factor;

creating a sales model for each demand group and wherein the sales model for each demand group includes an imputed base price variable, the equivalent price, the equivalent unit and a promotional variable; and

creating a market share model for each product in each demand group;

creating a cost model;

determining conditions from more than at least one manufacturer, wherein the conditions are requirements the more than one manufacturer places on an offer;

determining constraints from at least one store, and wherein the constraints from the at least one store includes a linear constraint and a nonlinear constraint;

determining the value of the offers using the sales model and cost model;

determining the value of promotional events using the sales model and cost model;

selecting combinations of offers and promotional events by optimizing based on the determined values to create a promotion event calendar subject to the conditions from the more than at least one manufacturer and constraints from the at least one store; and

estimating net profit from the selected combination of offers and promotional events using the sales model and cost model.

9. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the constraints from the at least one store include at least one of ad space capacity and display space capacity.

10. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the constraints from the at least one store include at least one of an event type, a number of events, a brand promotion frequency, and a product promotion frequency.
11. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method as recited in claim 5, wherein the constraints from the at least one store include at least one of ad space capacity and display space capacity.
12. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method as recited in claim 5, wherein the constraints from the at least one store include at least one of an event type, a number of events, a brand promotion frequency, and a product promotion frequency.
13. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method as recited in claim 8, wherein the constraints from the at least one store include at least one of ad space capacity and display space capacity.
14. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method as recited in claim 8, wherein the constraints from the at least one store include at least one of an event type, a number of events, a brand promotion frequency, and a product promotion frequency.
15. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the matching of offers with promotional events includes solving an integer problem using the linear constraint and the nonlinear constraint.

16. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method as recited in claim 5, wherein the selection of combinations of offers and promotional events includes solving an integer problem using the linear constraint and the nonlinear constraint.
17. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method as recited in claim 8, wherein the selection of combinations of offers and promotional events includes solving an integer problem using the linear constraint and the nonlinear constraint.
18. (Previously Cancelled)
19. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the conditions from the at least one manufacturer include providing at least one of a promotional event and a specific amount of promotion.
20. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the conditions from the at least one manufacturer include not providing a promotional event for a competitor's product.
21. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method as recited in claim 5, wherein the conditions from the at least one manufacturer include providing at least one of a promotional event and a specific amount of promotion.
22. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method as recited in claim 5, wherein the conditions from the at least one manufacturer include not providing a promotional event for a competitor's product.

23. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method as recited in claim 8, wherein the conditions from the at least one manufacturer include providing at least one of a promotional event and a specific amount of promotion.
24. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method as recited in claim 8, wherein the conditions from the at least one manufacturer include not providing a promotional event for a competitor's product.
25. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the imputed base price variable is a function of initial base prices.
26. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 25, wherein the initial base prices are averages of non-promoted prices.
27. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the econometric engine utilizes Bayesian Shrinkage modeling which relies on a mixed-model methodology of combining data to dampen any extreme values of the data.
28. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for creating a promotional event calendar, useful in association with at least one store, the computer-implemented method comprising:
 - modeling sales as a function of price to create a sales model, wherein the sales model includes imputing base price variable and promotional variable, ~~and generating an equivalent price and an equivalized unit using an equivalizing factor;~~
 - modeling costs to create a cost model;
 - receiving cost model and sales model;

receiving conditions from more than one manufacturer, wherein the conditions are requirements the more than one manufacturer places on an offer;

receiving constraints from at least one store, and wherein the constraints from the at least one store includes a linear constraint and a nonlinear constraint;

computing a score for each offer of the plurality of offers and each event of the plurality of promotional events, wherein each event include at least one type of promotional vehicle, and wherein each offer includes at least one promotional vehicle requirement;

selecting a combination of offers from the plurality of offers, and events from the plurality of promotional events to form a subset of offers and events;

reconciling the type of promotional vehicle with the promotional vehicle requirements for the offers and events within the subset of offers and events; and

constructing a promotion calendar utilizing the subset of offers and events, and reconciled type of promotional vehicle and promotional vehicle requirements.

analyzing a plurality of offers, a plurality of promotional events, conditions from at least one manufacturer, and constraints from the at least one store; and

creating a promotional event calendar by optimally matching offers with promotional events.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method, as recited in claim [[30]] 28, wherein the computing the score independently computes a value of each offer and a value of each event, and wherein the computing the score also links each product with one promotional vehicle type of the at least one promotional vehicle type.

32. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method, as recited in claim [[30]] 28, wherein selecting the combination of offers and events includes maximizing the sum of the values of the offers and events within the subset of offers and events, while adhering to the conditions from at least one manufacturer and the constraints from the at least one store.

33. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method, as recited in claim [[30]] 28, wherein reconciling the type of promotional vehicle with the promotional vehicle requirements includes solving an integer problem.

34. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method, as recited in claim [[30]] 28, wherein constructing a promotion calendar includes setting the promotion levels of each product and computing the resulting profit over a promotional period.

35. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method, as recited in claim [[30]] 28, wherein the selection subset of offers and events includes the integer programming model with the following objective function and appropriate restrictions on the variables:

$$\sum_{t=1}^T \sum_o Value_o IO_{o,t} + \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_e Value_e IE_{e,t}$$

where,

t : atime indices;

O : a set of offers;

o : an offer in O ;

E : a set of events;

e : an event in E ;

T : total planning period in weeks;

$$IE_{e,t} \equiv \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if event } e \text{ is scheduled to start in period } t \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}; \text{ and}$$

$$IO_{o,t} \equiv \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if offer } o \text{ is accepted in period } t \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}.$$

36. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method, as recited in claim [[30]] 28, wherein the reconciliation includes the integer programming model with the following objective function and appropriate restrictions on the variables:

$$\text{Maximize} : \sum_{t=1}^T \left(\sum_{\substack{p,e:IE_{e,t}=1 \\ k \in \text{DisplayLag}(e)}} \text{Score}_p IDE_{p,e,t+k} + \sum_{\substack{p,e:IE_{e,t}=1 \\ k \in \text{AdLag}(e)}} \text{Score}_p IAE_{p,e,t+k} \right)$$

where,

t : time indices;

E : set of events;

e : event in E ;

p : index for products belonging to a set of promoted products;

$$\text{DisplayLag}(e) \equiv \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{the offsets from the start of the event during} \\ \text{which the products have to be on display} \end{array} \right\};$$

$$\text{AdLag}(e) \equiv \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{the offsets from the start of the event during} \\ \text{which the products have to be advertised.} \end{array} \right\};$$

T : total planning period in weeks;

$$IE_{e,t} \equiv \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if event } e \text{ is scheduled to start in period } t \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases};$$

$$IDE_{p,e,r} \equiv \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if product } p \text{ is on display in event } e \text{ in period } r \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases};$$

$$IAE_{p,e,r} \equiv \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if product } p \text{ is advertised in event } e \text{ in time } r \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}; \text{ and}$$

r: any period in the promotion interval.

37. (New) The system, as recited in claim 1, wherein the more than one manufacturer includes a plurality of manufacturers and wholesalers.
38. (New) The computer-implemented method as recited in claim 5, wherein the more than one manufacturer includes a plurality of manufacturers and wholesalers.
39. (New) The computer-implemented method as recited in claim 8, wherein the more than one manufacturer includes a plurality of manufacturers and wholesalers.
40. (New) The computer-implemented method as recited in claim 28, wherein the more than one manufacturer includes a plurality of manufacturers and wholesalers.